1

the first volume

orange

【オレンジ】

高野苺

TAKANO ICHIGO presents
ACTION COMICS
published by FUTABASHA

orange

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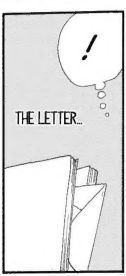
ACTION COMICS

published by FUTABASHA

IN THE SPRING OF MY 16TH YEAR...
...I RECEIVED A LETTER.
HOW DID IT REACH ME?
〒390-0806
松本市蟻ケ山奇
高宮菜穂様
THE SENDER WAS...
WHY WAS IT SENT?

HMM?
(NAHO TAKAMIYA)
高宮菜穂
FROM ME...?
NAHO, YOU'LL BE LATE!
I KNOW!
CLICK
カチャ

THE LETTER... I'LL READ IT LATER.
"APRIL 6TH: THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I OVERSLEPT."
I KNOW WHAT THE SUBJECT OF TODAY'S DIARY ENTRY IS GOING TO BE.


!
THE LETTER...

TODAY WE HAVE THE OPENING CEREMONY, AND...
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH EVERYONE HERE NEXT YEAR.
WELL, CONGRATS ON MOVING UP ANOTHER YEAR.

THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO TODAY.

I'M GOING TO BRING HIM IN, SO HOLD ON.

CHATTER

ガラ

SHUT

CHATTER

ピシッ

CHATTER

MAYBE...

...I'LL READ IT NOW.

Naho Takamiya-sama

My second-year high school self. How are you?

I'm writing this letter ten years in your future.

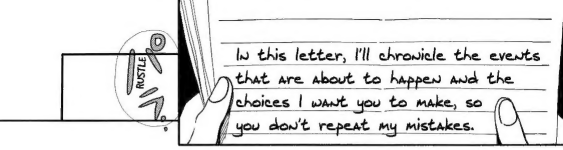
Why am I writing to you when you're in high school?

Because I need you to do me a huge favor.

TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE...?

AND FROM "ME"?

IS THIS A PRANK?

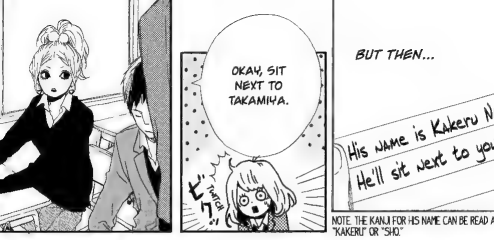


APRIL 6TH
I FORGET TO SET MY ALARM CLOCK, AND OVERSLEPT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.

A NEW STUDENT FROM TOKYO COMES TO CLASS 6. HIS NAME IS SHO NARUSE.

HEY, QUIET DOWN!
ざわ
ざわ
CHATTER
WE'VE GOT A NEW STUDENT TODAY.
!
TAP
TAP
TAP
成瀬
THIS IS KAKERU NARUSE.
成瀬翔
かける

NARUSE COMES TO US FROM TOKYO...
...AND THIS IS APPARENTLY HIS FIRST TIME LIVING IN NAGANO.
NARUSE, SAY A FEW WORDS TO EVERYBODY.
IT'S... NICE TO MEET YOU.
FOR REAL?
THIS IS...
...FOR REAL?



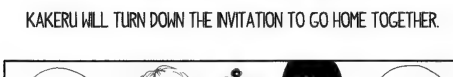
NOTE: THE KANJI FOR HIS NAME CAN BE READ AS "KAKERU" OR "SHO."

NAHO! WE'RE ALL GOIN' HOME TOGETHER!
WHA...?
DONG
DONG
DONG
DONG

AH!
KAKERU-KUN!
REALLY? YAY!
WE CAN HAVE LUNCH FROM MY PLACE!

GO HOME WITH US!

KAKERU WILL TURN DOWN THE INVITATION TO GO HOME TOGETHER.



THIS IS THE ONE DAY I DON'T WANT YOU TO INVITE KAKERU. SERIOUSLY.

GOOD ANSWER! YOU'VE GOTTA TRY MY FAMILY'S BREAD!
JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT...
WELL...
THERE YOU GO!
...I'LL TALK TO THEM ABOUT THIS.
MAYBE...
BUT...
...WILL THEY BELIEVE ME?

SO I'LL START BY INTRO'ING EVERYBODY!
I WONDER WHY IT SAID NOT TO INVITE HIM...

THIS IS...
...AZUSA MURASAKA.
CALL ME "AZU"!
TAKAKO CHINO.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
SAKU HAGITA.
NAHO TAKAMIYA.
AND I'M HIROTO SUWA.
BUT JUST CALL ME "SUWA."

MY PARENTS NAMED ME AFTER THAT SONG!
I KNOW IT. WHAT ABOUT IT?
DO YOU KNOW "AZUSA 2"? BY THE HUNTERS?

AH! YOU NOTICED?
AZUSA?
KAKERU-KUN, WHAT DID YOU RIDE FROM TOKYO TO MATSUMOTO?
THE AZUSA LIMITED EXPRESS.
I KNEW IT! THAT'S HILARIOUS!
HUH? HOW IS IT HILARIOUS?

SO WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, MY NICKNAME WAS "THE HUNTER"!
NOT "AZUSA 2"...
AFTER THAT, IT BECAME "HUNTS-MAN."
RIGHT, HUNTER?

AND THE PV STYLE WAS IN THE VIDEO.
THE OTHER NIGHT, MY DAD SANG "AZUSA 2" AT KARAOKE.
BUT RIGHT NOW, AZUSA 2 DOESN'T LEAVE AT 8:00 ON THE DOT.
OH, SHUT UR MAKE LIKE YOUR TRAIN NAMESAKE AND LEAVE ON A LONG JOURNEY AT 8:00 ON THE DOT!
...BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS SLANTED TO THE RIGHT!
AND YOURS WAS "SLANTED GLASSES"...
These days, it's Lob, right?
WHAT, REALLY? I WANNA SEE IT.
JEEZ, YOU GUYS ADD INTO THE HUNTERS...

HEH...

HEY, YOU GUYS ARE MAKIN' IT AWKWARD FOR KAKERU. LOOK.

HA HA HA!

WHAT THE HECK...?

BUT I'M GLAD

THAT?!

"HUNTS-MAN."

WHAT WAS THE FUNNIEST PART?

HE THINKS WE'RE FUNNY!

WE CRACKED HIM UP!

HE LAUGHED.

I'M GLAD WE INVITED HIM.
WE GOT THE GOODIES, EVERY-ONE!
YEAH!
EACH PERSON GETS TWO THINGS.
PANDA
THANKS, AZU!
WE'VE GOT CUTLET BUN, PORK MISO BUN, CURRY BUN...
...MUSTARD LEAF BUN, MELON BUN, AND APPLE CINNAMON ROLL!
YOU CAN CHOOSE FIRST, KAKERU-KUN!
HUH...
ANYTHING'S FINE WITH ME. THOUGH I AM CURIOUS ABOUT THE MUSTARD LEAF BUN.
IT'S GREAT. TRY IT!
HOW ABOUT YOU, NAHO?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I LOVE THE CURRY BUNS FROM AZU'S FAMILY BAKERY...
ME, TOO.
I'M GOOD WITH ANY-THING...
I'D FEEL GUILTY IF SOMEONE ELSE WANTED TO HAVE IT...
REALLY? YOU'RE NOT JUST HOLDIN' BACK?
REALLY! REALLY!

NAHO HAS A SWEET TOOTH, SO SHE GETS THE MELON BUN AND APPLE CINNAMON.

KAKERU-KUN, YOU TAKE A CURRY ROLL.

It's totally delicious!

I'LL HAVE THE OTHER MUSTARD LEAF BUN!

THEN YOU GUYS CAN TAKE WHAT YOU WANT.

I'LL HAVE THE APPLE CINNAMON.

UP YOURS! THAT MUSTARD LEAF BUN IS MINE!

LIKE I FIGURED, EVERYBODY WANTS IT.

I'M GLAD...

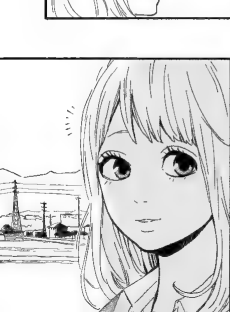
...I DIDN'T ASK FOR THE CURRY BUN.

YOU CAN HAVE IT ANYTIME!

I don't want you to have it!

HUH? I WANT THAT!

THEN I'LL HAVE THE OTHER CURRY BUN.



LET'S TRADE. CURRY BUN...
...FOR THE MELON BUN.
SURE... HERE.
THANKS.

DID HE NOTICE...
...AND MAKE THE TRADE FOR MY SAKE?
DID I LOOK LIKE I WANTED THE CURRY BUN?
...THAT OBVIOUS?
WAS IT...

FRIDAY, APRIL 6TH

THE FIRST TIME I OVER-SLEPT IN MY LIFE.

THE OPENING CEREMONY, SO ONLY HALF A DAY OF SCHOOL.

OUR CLASS GOT A NEW STUDENT, KAKERU NARUSE-KUN, AND HE SITS NEXT TO ME.

FROM AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL THE SUN WENT DOWN, WE ALL JUST WALKED AND TALKED, INCLUDING OUR NEW FRIEND, KAKERU-KUN.

I WALKED BEHIND HIM.

BYE BYE!

SEE YOU ON MONDAY!

AH!

KAKERU-KUN!

CAN WE JUST CALL YOU "KAKERU"?

THAT'S EVEN BETTER.
SURE.
SHIT
STARTING MONDAY, WE'RE GOING TO CALL HIM "KAKERU."
SO ENDS TODAY'S DIARY ENTRY.
WAS THERE SOMETHING ELSE I WAS GONNA WRITE ABOUT...?

EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TODAY...

...WAS IN THERE.

FROM OVER-SLEEPING...

...TO EVERYBODY WALKING HOME TOGETHER.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

THE LETTER.

walked behind him.

Starting Monday, we're
g to call him "Kakeru."

THE WRITING IS THE SAME...

...I MUST'VE BEEN LOOKING AT THIS DIARY AS I WROTE IT.

...WAS REALLY SENT FROM ME TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE...

SO IF THIS LETTER...

IN FACT...

...IT MENTIONS EVERYTHING THAT I JUST WROTE IN MY DIARY.

...

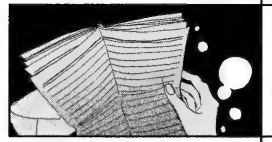
THIS...
...IS...
...REAL.
カサ...
RUSTLE
Friday, April 2
WHAM
I'M SCARED.
IF THIS IS TRUE...

IF IT'S TRUE...
...I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT.
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW...
...THE FUTURE.

YOU'RE THAT CURIOUS?
I WONDER WHAT'S UP...
I SHOULD'VE ASKED HIM WHEN WE TALKED ON THE PHONE.
KAKERU-KUN ISN'T HERE TODAY?
I DUNNO...

LATER...
UH...
YEAH...
HUH?
ABOUT KAKERU.
HE ON YOUR MIND?
HUH?
SHE LEFT.
HUH? WHERE'S NAHO?
YEAH...
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE CHEM LAB TOGETHER!
Hey!
KAKERU-KUN?!
SHE SAYS KAKERU'S ON HER MIND.
What does he mean, "on my mind"?
FOR TWO WEEKS ...
AFTER THAT...

(NAHO TAKAMIYA)



APRIL 20TH

BALL GAME TOURNAMENT

THEY ASK ME TO BE A PINCH HITTER FOR THE SOFTBALL GAME.

I REFUSE, AND REGRET IT LATER.
PLEASE, I WANT YOU TO ACCEPT THE PINCH HITTER REQUEST.

I FALL IN LOVE WITH KAKERU THAT DAY.

MAYBE...
...IF I HADN'T INVITED KAKERU-KUN THAT DAY...
...HIS ABSENCE COULD'VE BEEN AVOIDED.
KAKERU-KUN?!

NOTE: "BYE-BOO" IS ONE CUTE WAY TO SAY "BYE-BYE" IN JAPANESE, AND "BOO" IS THE JAPANESE EQUIVALENT OF "OINK". HENCE, THE PIG FACE.

EASY WIN! EASY WIN!
WE'RE A STRONG TEAM WITH NAHO ON OUR SIDE.
SHE THROWS LIKE NOBODY ELSE...
Yay! Run!
OH...
I'M NOT PLAYING ANYTHING. I'M IN CHARGE OF FIRST-AID.
REALLY? WHY?
AFTER ALL, I HAVEN'T BEEN IN CLASS OR PRACTICED, FOR THAT MATTER...
WHICH EVENT DID YOU SIGN UP FOR, KAKERU?
Ah! Hagita!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO CARE ABOUT THAT. SO SERIOUS...
SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SOFTBALL.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR FOOT?
HUH?

DOES IT HURT?
AND YOU'VE BEEN WEARING THEM SINCE FIRST-YEAR?
YEAH. I NEVER FOUND THE RIGHT TIMING TO SAY ANYTHING, SO JUST LET IT BE...
AH...
YEAH.
THIS SHOE IS TOO SMALL.
SMALL?
I GUESS THEY ORDERED THE WRONG SIZE...
SUWA...
...SIGNED UP FOR SOCCER?
YEAH. HE'S IN THE SOCCER CLUB.
HE'S GOOD.
HUH...

IS HE "GOOD"...?
Jeez... Hagita-kun sucks...
I HAVE NO IDEA.
...
WE'RE UP! THIS IS GONNA BE A PIECE OF CAKE!
NAHO!
6組 VS 3組
5 対 6
(CLASS 6 VS CLASS 3)
NAHO, WE'LL NEVER ASK YOU FOR ANYTHING AGAIN!
PINCH HIT FOR US!

I WAS IN THE SOFTBALL CLUB IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...

...AND IT'S TWO OUTS WITH THE BASES LOADED.

IF I GET A HIT, WE WIN.

IF YOU SLAM ONE, IT'LL BE A GLORIOUS WIN FOR US, NAHO!

I JUST CAN'T DO IT! THAT PITCHER WILL STRIKE ME OUT! SHE'S IN THE SOFTBALL CLUB!

IT REALLY IS HAPPENING!

IF ANYONE CAN SCORE A HIT OFF OF THE SOFTBALL CLUB, YOU CAN!

I... I CAN'T...

BUT IF WE GET AN OUT HERE, WE LOSE...

EVEN IF I GO TO BAT...

...I'M SURE WE'LL LOSE.

HUH?

NAHO, I'M BEGGING YOU!

I DON'T THINK I COULD GET A HIT OFF OF HER EITHER...

I'M SORRY...

I...

I'M NOT CONFIDENT ENOUGH...

...TO HAVE PEOPLE COUNTING ON ME.

PLUS THE PITCHER IS SCARY...

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S AN INJURY.
AND IT'S MY OWN FAULT...
HUH?
WHERE?
NAHO, YOU'RE HURT?
DON'T FORCE HER.
HER FOOT HURTS.
!
THEN...
THEN I'LL TAKE A CRACK AT IT!
...THAT AZU WOULD GO INSTEAD OF ME, STRIKE OUT, AND WE'D LOSE THE GAME.
THE LETTER SAID...
JUST FORGIVE ME IF I STRIKE OUT!
...

IT SAID THAT I REGRETTED TURNING IT DOWN ONCE.
THAT LETTER TOLD ME TO GO FOR IT.
IS IT OKAY... ...TO SAY NO?
...FOISTING RESPONSIBILITY ON A FRIEND.
I'M SURE I'LL REGRET...
I...
I'LL DO IT!
WHAT A COWARD I AM...
RUNNING AWAY?
I'LL REGRET NOT DOING SOMETHING I KNOW I CAN DO.

THE ME OF THE PRESENT...
...DOESN'T WANT TO KEEP FEELING THIS REGRET FOR TEN YEARS.
IT'LL BE FINE!
I'm fine!
No, you're not!
HEY, WHAT ABOUT YOUR FOOT?
NAHO?
NOT EVEN TEN YEARS FROM NOW...
BUT THE REGRET WOULDN'T.
THE PAIN WILL GO AWAY EVENTUALLY.
MY FEET ARE FINE.

THE LETTER SAID...
...I COULD HIT ONE OF THESE PITCHES.
"THE FIRST IS A CURVE-BALL."
FURP
FAST...
STRIKE!
"THE SECOND PITCH IS THROWN STRAIGHT.
LOW INSIDE..."
WHIZZZ
HIT
HIT...

カキン
CRACK

HOME RUN!
WHUMP
カン
RUSTLE
ゴソッ
SHRIEK
NAHO!
THAT WAS FREAKIN' AWESOME!
YAY!
I WON FOR THE FIRST TIME.

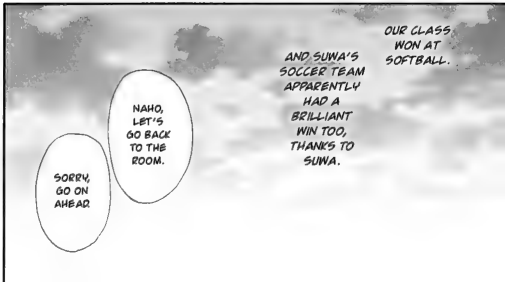
ME, WHO ALWAYS LOST BEFORE...

...BECAUSE I WAS WEAK AND COWARDLY...

NAHO!

YOU'VE GOTTA RUN THE BASES!

AH!



DID SOMEONE CALL AN AMBU-LANCE?
INFIRMARY...
IT HURTS SO MUCH, I CAN BARELY WALK...
MY FOOT IS AT ITS LIMIT...
GURGLE
GURGLE
STOP RIGHT THERE.
SHOW ME YOUR FOOT.
TH...
SIT RIGHT THERE.
THAT'S OKAY...
OUCH!
I'LL DISINFECT IT.
TSK-TSK.
YEP, THAT'S ONE BAD BLISTER.

ENDURE TOO MUCH...
...AND IT'LL BE YOUR LOSS.
AND AFTER ALL THIS TIME HAS PASSED...?
I THINK I'LL JUST ENDURE IT.
I SHOULD...
YOU'VE GOTTA TELL 'EM THAT THEY MADE A MISTAKE WITH THE SIZE.
BUT IT'S ONLY FOR P.E., SO IT'S NOT REALLY A PROBLEM.

I DON'T WANT TO MAKE WAVES FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.
WELL, AS LONG AS IT'S JUST MY LOSS...
NOBODY NOTICES, SO IF I SUCK IT UP, THERE'S NO PROBLEM.
THAT'S THE WAY I'VE ALWAYS HANDLED THINGS.

I KNOW.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU.
AND THAT PART BOTHERS ME.

SO HE DID NOTICE...
MY WORK IS DONE HERE.
CRUNCH
TAKE CARE.
THANK YOU.
SURE THING.

YOU TOO, KAKERU!
IF YOU WANNA PLAY SOCCER, JUST TELL THEM!
I'VE BEEN...
...WATCHING YOU TOO...
...KAKERU!

I'VE GOT MY EYE ON YOU!
YOUR HOME RUN THERE WAS PRETTY COOL.
NEXT YEAR, I'LL BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR THE SOCCER GAME.
I'M BETTER THAN SUWA, SO BE SURE TO WATCH IT.

I WILL!

I PROMISE!

EVERYTHING THE LETTER SAID...

...HAS COME TO PASS.

I FALL IN LOVE WITH KAKERU THAT DAY.

HE SAID HE'S BEEN WATCHING ME.

HAS ONE OF THE REGRETS...

...OF MY TEN-YEARS-IN-THE-FUTURE SELF BEEN ERASED?

THAT MAKES ME SO HAPPY.

WHA? WHAT'S THAT BOUQUET FOR?
LOOK AT THESE FLOWERS. BEAUTIFUL, RIGHT?
I'M GONNA GIVE IT TO KAKERU.
NAHO!
POUT
FORGET I ASKED!
WHAT? HE WOULDN'T APPRECIATE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS BLOOMED EARLY THIS YEAR.
HECK, CAN YOU BELIEVE WE'LL BE 27 THIS YEAR?
I WANT TO BE BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I WANT A DO-OVER!
DON'T REMIND ME!
SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA BRING HIM, THEN?
IT'S A SECRET.
WHA?

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF HAPPINESS AND GOOD FORTUNE AHEAD OF YOU.

MY 16-YEAR-OLD SELF...

PLEASE DON'T MESS THAT UP.

I HOPE YOU CAN SENSE THAT HAPPINESS.

Finally, I'm going to tell you my number one purpose in writing this letter.

RUSTLE

MY 26-YEAR-OLD SELF HAS MANY REGRETS.

I'M WRITING BECAUSE I DON'T WANT YOU, MY 16-YEAR-OLD SELF, TO CARRY THESE REGRETS WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

NOW, TEN YEARS IN YOUR FUTURE, KAKERU IS NO LONGER WITH US.

DON'T LOSE WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU.

PLEASE KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON KAKERU.

BOOK: WORLD'S MOST DIFFICULT SEVERAL MINUTE SOLUTIONS

orange
LETTER 2

(NAHO TAKAMIYA)

APRIL 23RD

KAKERU BECOMES A PROVISIONAL MEMBER OF THE SOCCER CLUB.

KAKERU SAYS HIS MOM DOESN'T MAKE HIM LUNCH, SO I TELL HIM I'LL MAKE ONE FOR HIM AND BRING IT TOMORROW.

IT REALLY IS INEXPLICABLE...
THE LETTER WAS RIGHT AGAIN.
HUH...
MY MOM WON'T MAKE ME ANY.
NOPE.
WHAT, KAKERU, NO LUNCH TODAY EITHER?
Then I'm jumping over-board!
we're in the same boat.
HA HA HA
HAGITA'S THE SAME WAY. HIS MOM PREPARES LUNCH FOR HIM EVERY MORNING.
OH, YEAH. SHE LEAVES 500 YEN ON THE TABLE.
Hahaha!
And you're gonna eat bread, too!
BUT YOU'VE ALREADY GOT LUNCH, SUWA.
YEAH, THIS WON'T FILL ME UP AND I DON'T WANNA GO HUNGRY...
SHUT UP, AZU.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIANT.

NOW, TEN YEARS IN YOUR FUTURE. KAKERU IS NO LONGER WITH US.
FOR SOME REASON, THAT'S THE ONE THING...
KAKERU...
...I CAN'T BELIEVE.
...PASSES AWAY?
SURE.
KAKERU-KUN!
YOU GOT FREE TIME TODAY?
NAHO!
LET'S GO SHOPPING ON THE WAY HOME!
HUH? WHAT?

...THAT YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME AT SOCCER.
GASP
WHY DON'T YOU COME AND WATCH THE SOCCER CLUB?
WHY? I HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD...
HUH? WHY?
?
RIGHT, NAHO?
GASP
U...
YES?
I... I'M SORR...
NAHO!

DON'T TELL HIM THAT!
KNOCK
HE TOUCHED MY HEAD...
AND IT WAS THE FIRST TIME...
...HE CALLED ME "NAHO."
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT, KAKERU? "DON'T TELL HIM THAT!" AND THEN YOU TAP HER ON THE HEAD!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT WAS IT ABOUT?
IS THAT THE POPULAR THING TO DO IN TOKYO?
OF COURSE NOT!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO, KAKERU!
Soccer! Soccer!
HUH?

カツン
CLINK
AH!
HEY!
SOMEBODY'S BUTTON FELL OFF.
EITHER KAKERU OR SUWA!
AH. IT'S MINE.
IT GOT CAUGHT ON SOMETHING THIS MORNING AND CAME HALFWAY OFF.
My mom'll get mad...
WANT ME TO SEW IT BACK ON?
HUH? YOU CAN DO THAT? LIKE RIGHT NOW?
SURE! I'VE GOT A MINI SEWING KIT.
THAT'S OUR NAHO!
THEN WOULD YOU DO IT, PLEASE?
YEAH, NO PROBLEM.

AFTER ALL, KAKERU WILL BE THERE...

AFTER YOU'RE DONE WITH THAT...
...YOU SHOULD COME AND WATCH US, TOO.

NAHO'S GOING TO PARCO WITH US TODAY.
GO TO PARCO ON SUNDAY! I WANNA GO, TOO!
I'm free on Sunday!
NO BOYS ALLOWED! THIS IS A GIRLS-ONLY ACTIVITY!

OH, JUST COME AN' SEE THE SOCCER CLUB!
OKAY!
KAKERU WILL BE THERE, AFTER ALL...

SOMETHING TO SAY, KAKERU?
NOTHING.

I HAVE A FEELING...

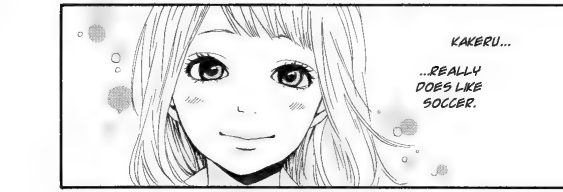
...WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER LIKE THIS EVEN TEN YEARS FROM NOW.

AND AFTER THAT...

DO YOUR BEST!
KAKERU! SUWA!
KAKERU IS RUNNING!
HE'S LAUGHING!
KAKERU!

YEAH!
WHAM
KAKERU, THAT WAS GREAT!
I saw your goal!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PLAYED SOCCER.
That was fantastic!
YEAH, SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
KAKERU WAS COOL, BUT DID YOU SEE ME?
HE MADE THE GOAL BECAUSE OF MY GREAT PASS!
Right?
Yeah...
BUT REALLY...
...THE ONE WHO SCORES THE GOAL IS COOLER.
Yeah!
TAKAKO...
You're right... but...
KAKERU IS JOININ' THE SOCCER CLUB TOMORROW!
HUH? I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
THE SENIORS WANT YOU TO JOIN, TOO!
They'll get mad if you don't...
BUT I CAN'T GET UP IN THE MORNING... I COULD NEVER DO MORNING PRACTICE!
THEN JUST JOIN AS A PROVISIONAL MEMBER AND ONLY COME IN THE AFTER-NOONS!
OKAY?
Do it!

Suwa's seduction worked!!
I'm just a provisional member!
HE SEEMS KIND OF HAPPY.
FINE... I'LL BE A PROVISIONAL MEMBER...
Oh baby!
TEN MINUTES LATER


KAKERU...
...REALLY DOES LIKE SOCCER.

NO... I WAS JUST THINKING.
HUH?, YOU LAUGHED!
NAHO, YOU'RE...
WHAT?
HEH.
A BUTTON ON YOUR SLEEVE WAS ALSO LOOSE, SO I SEWED THAT TIGHT, TOO.
WOW! THANKS!
I FIXED YOUR BUTTON.
AH! SUWA.

...LIKE A MOTHER.
WH...
WHAT THE HECK?!
GONG
You nailed her!
NOT ONLY THAT...
NAHO MAKES HER OWN LUNCH EVERY DAY!
Always homemade!
WOW.
THEN MAKE LUNCH FOR ME WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!

SURE, NO PROBLEM!
I'LL BRING YOU LUNCH TOMORROW.
THAT'S OKAY!
I WAS JUST KIDDING!
KAKERU, GET CHANGED IN THE CLUB ROOM.
OKAY.
...
"JUST KIDDING." HUH...
JUST...

YOU'RE OVER-THINKING THINGS AGAIN, MOM.

WELL, AFTER ALL...

BUT MAYBE THIS WOULD JUST ANNOY HIM.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I DON'T WANT IT TO GET TOO LATE...

SSSSSS

BUT IF I GO NOW, THEY'RE PROBABLY AT THE DINNER TABLE.

I FORGOT TO PASS ON THE COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD.

(BULLETIN BOARD)

OOPS!

BUT...

I STILL WANT TO MAKE LUNCH FOR HIM.

SSSS

YEAH...

YEAH, NEVER MIND...

...SO I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER HIM...

...HE SAID WAS HE WAS ONLY KIDDING...

I MEAN...

APRIL 23RD

KAKERU SAYS HIS MOM DOESN'T MAKE HIM LUNCH...

...SO I TELL HIM I'LL MAKE ONE FOR HIM AND BRING IT TOMORROW.

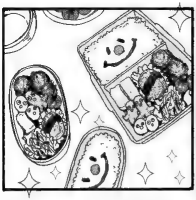
FUWA!

FUWAFU

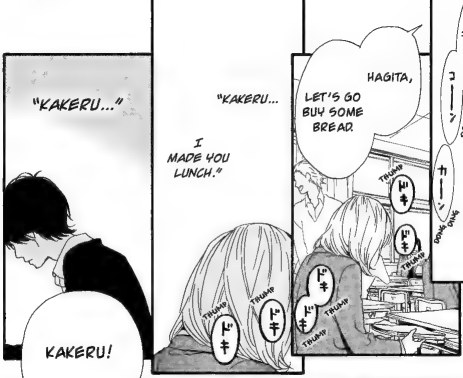
BUT I CHANGED MY MIND AND DIDN'T MAKE HIM LUNCH.

I REGRET NOT MAKING HIM LUNCH THEN.

I WANT YOU TO GIVE KAKERU A HOMEMADE LUNCH ON THE 24TH.



SEE YOU LATER!
I WONDER IF THERE'S A BOY SHE LIKES.
FINALLY.
At last...
I WONDER...
...IF KAKERU WILL BE PLEASED.
PROBABLY NOT. PLEASED...
MORE LIKE SURPRISED...
THAT'S WHAT I'M GUESSING.
OKAY! I GOT THIS!
AT LUNCH, I'LL HAND IT OFF TO HIM, THEN DISAPPEAR (RUN AWAY)!
IT'LL BE FINE!
IF HE DOESN'T WANT IT, WHATEVER.
G...
G-GOOD MO-MO-MORNING.
?
Mo-mo-morning?
MORNING!
THUMP


"KAKERU..."
"KAKERU...
I MADE YOU LUNCH."
HAGITA, LET'S GO BUY SOME BREAD.
キーン
DING
コーン
DONG
カーン
DING DONG
ドキ
TRUMP
KAKERU!

YOU WANNA GET SOME BREAD WITH US?

KAKERU!
"KAKERU...!"
ガラ
RATTLE
YEAH, SURE.

"KAKERU..."

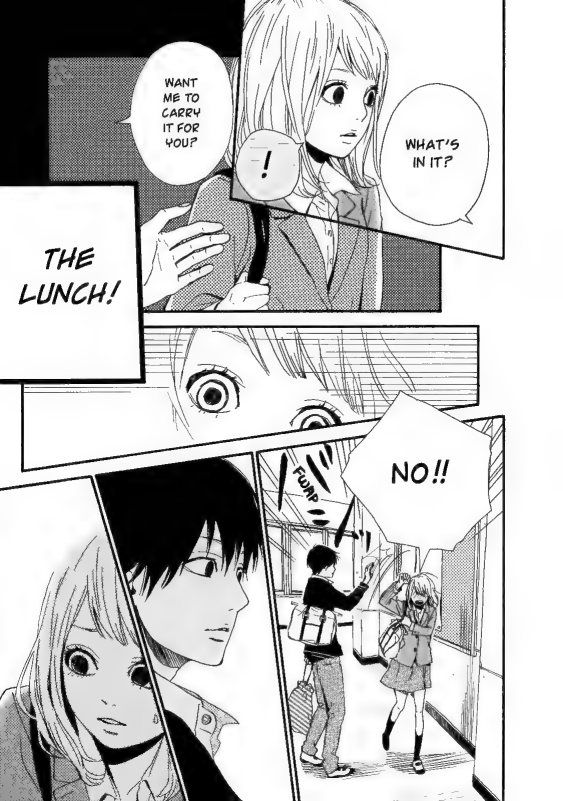
"I MADE YOU LUNCH."

I DIDN'T SAY IT.

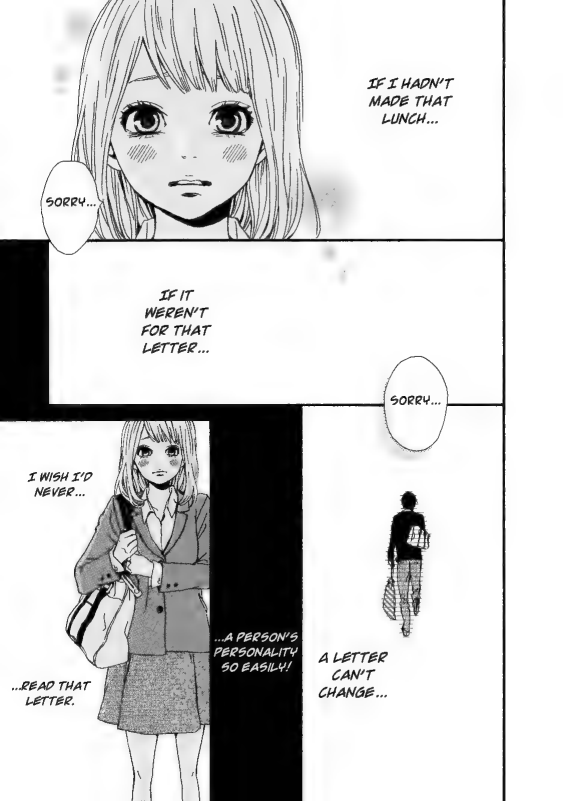
BYE BYE!
BYE!
HUH?
WHERE ARE AZU AND THE OTHERS?

IT LOOKS HEAVY.
NAHO, IS IT JUST ME, OR IS YOUR BAG BIGGER THAN USUAL?
YEAH.
I'm just a provisional member.

THE CLUB?
I'M WAITING FOR SUWA MYSELF.
I SEE...
THEY JUST WENT TO THE ENTRANCE.
TAKA-CHAN AND AZU HAVE CLEANING DUTIES TODAY.


WHAT'S IN IT?
!
WANT ME TO CARRY IT FOR YOU?
THE LUNCH!
NO!!
FUMP

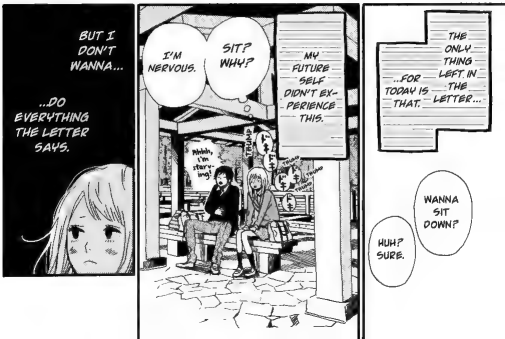
SORRY...


IF I HADN'T MADE THAT LUNCH...
SORRY...
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT LETTER...
SORRY...
I WISH I'D NEVER...
...A PERSON'S PERSONALITY SO EASILY!
A LETTER CAN'T CHANGE...
...READ THAT LETTER.

KAKERU!
LET'S GO HOME.
YEAH.
I'M SORRY!
KAKERU!
I'M SORRY ABOUT BEFORE!
I'M OUTTA HERE!
DASH

NAHO!
LET'S WALK BACK TOGETHER!
WELL, I'M GONNA GO ON AHEAD.
NAHO, BYE BYE!
HUH?
WHAT?
WHAT DO I DO?
THIS WASN'T IN THE LETTER.
TELL ME ABOUT IT TOMORROW.

IF KAKERU EVER SEEMS SAD, I WANT YOU TO HELP HIM.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE RESULT WILL BE, SO I'M SCARED...

WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO WHEN YOU GET HOME?

MM... HELP MY MOM.

WITH DINNER...

HUH. ANY HOBBIES?

OR STUFF THAT YOU LIKE TO DO?

HUH? HOUSE-WORK, MAYBE?

HA HA HA!

Your hobby is housework!

KAKERU IS ALWAYS LAUGHING.

KAKERU ASKS A LOT OF QUESTIONS...

...SO, MAYBE IT WOULD BE OKAY TO ASK HIM A FEW.

HOW ABOUT YOU, KAKERU?

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU GO HOME?

PLAY VIDEO GAMES.

YOU LIKE VIDEO GAMES?

YEAH.

WERE YOU HOME PLAYING VIDEO GAMES INSTEAD OF GOING TO SCHOOL FOR THOSE TWO WEEKS?

YEAH.

YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING A GREAT TIME.
WHY DON'T YOU BECOME A FULL MEMBER?
...WHAT ABOUT THE SOCCER CLUB?
...
MY MOM DIED.
SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE ON THE DAY OF THE OPENING CEREMONY.

I THOUGHT IT WAS OKAY TO ASK HIM STUFF.
I PROMISED MY MOM I WOULDN'T JOIN A CLUB.
I MEAN, HE WAS ASKING ME SO MANY QUESTIONS.
AFTER THAT...
...I WAS ABSENT FOR THE FUNERAL AND THE MOVE.
SORRY. I SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT STRANGE STUFF LIKE THAT.
NO...
IT'S MY FAULT FOR ASKING.
AND IT'S NOT STRANGE.

This is the one day I don't want you to invite Kakeru. Seriously.
...OF THIS?
WHY DID I...?
IT SAID NOT TO INVITE KAKERU ON THE DAY OF THE OPENING CEREMONY.
IS IT BECAUSE...

WHY DID I INVITE HIM THAT DAY?
HE LOOKS SO SAD...
NO. I HAVE TO CARRY OUT MY FUTURE WISHES.
...BUT AT THIS RATE, I'LL JUST REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES.
SHOULD WE GO?
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO ERASE MY REGRETS...
YEAH...

KAKERU!
I HAVE TO HELP KAKERU.
...LUNCH!
I MADE YOU...

I... I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL BE TO YOUR TASTE... B-BUT...
...HERE! EAT IT!
I MEANT TO GIVE IT TO YOU AT LUNCHTIME...
...BUT I COULDN'T...
SHOULD I DISAPPEAR?
ESCAPE...
...BY RUNNING AWAY?

TO BE HONEST...
...I WAS HOPING YOU'D MAKE IT.
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T...
...BUT I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT YOU DID.

THANK YOU...
...NAHO!
...BECAUSE KAKERU IS HOLDING THE LUNCH THAT I WAS GOING TO LUG HOME...
I FEEL LIKE...
...AND IS SMILING WITH DELIGHT.
...I'M GOING TO CRY...

BECAUSE HE'S SMILING LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES...
AND THE DAY AFTER THAT!
AND THE DAY AFTER THAT!
THEN I'LL BRING ANOTHER ONE TOMORROW!
EVERY DAY!
I'LL MAKE YOU LUNCH EVERY DAY...
...AND IF YOU CAN'T GET UP IN THE MORNING...
...I'LL GIVE YOU...
...A WAKE-UP CALL!

YOU REALLY ARE LIKE A MOM!

KAKERU'S SMILE...

...LIVES ON.

EVEN TEN YEARS...

...IN THE FUTURE...

...AND BEYOND.

SORRY YOU HAD TO DRIVE.

NO PROBLEM!

DON'T SAY "NO PROBLEM"! I'M THE ONE WHO DROVE!

THIS SWEETIE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU, NAHO.

REALLY?

THANK GOD THE KID DOESN'T RESEMBLE SUWA!

HEY!

HUH? WHAT'S THIS?

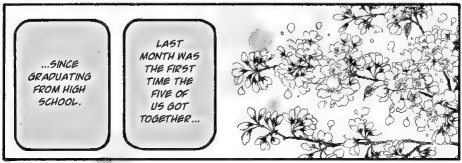
HAGITA, YOU DON'T HAVE A FAMILY, SO WHY ARE YOU DRIVING A MINIVAN?

SHUT UP. IT'S MY BROTHER'S.

Though he doesn't have a family, either...

OKAY, LET'S GET A MOVE ON!
YEAH, LEAVE IT TO ME.
SUWA, YOU KNOW THE WAY, RIGHT?
I'll navigate!

HUH?
IT'S FOR KAKERU.
BY THE WAY, SUWA, WHAT'S WITH THE BOUQUET?
WHAT?
DON'T TELL ME...
Nothin' wrong with that!


...SINCE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
LAST MONTH WAS THE FIRST TIME THE FIVE OF US GOT TOGETHER...

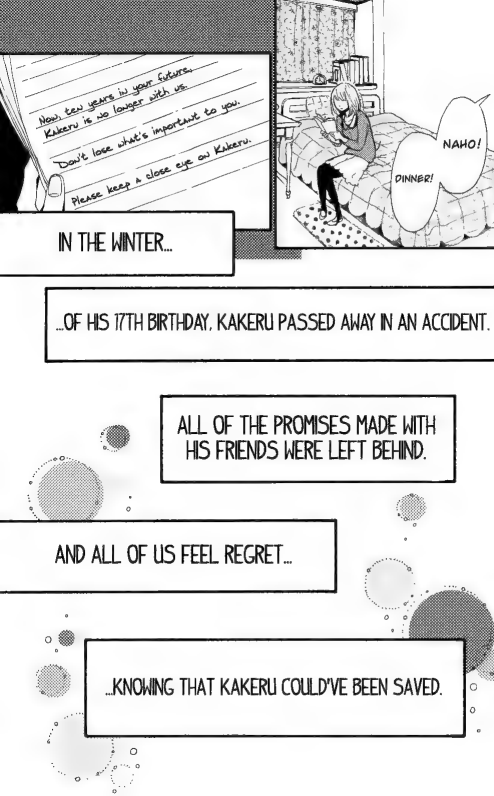
HEY, THAT'S NOT FAIR!
AND I WASN'T ASKING HAGITA.
ASK ME!
You said it's a secret, so I'm embarrassed to ask!
HA HA HA!

IT'S A SECRET!

SO WHAT DID YOU GUYS BRING FOR KAKERU?

ALONG WITH THE FEELINGS THAT COULDN'T REACH HIM...

AND THE PROMISES THAT COULDN'T BE KEPT...


Now, ten years in your future.
Kakeru is no longer with us.
Don't lose what's important to you.
Please keep a close eye on Kakeru.
NAHO!
DINNER!
IN THE WINTER...
...OF HIS 17TH BIRTHDAY, KAKERU PASSED AWAY IN AN ACCIDENT.
ALL OF THE PROMISES MADE WITH HIS FRIENDS WERE LEFT BEHIND.
AND ALL OF US FEEL REGRET...
...KNOWING THAT KAKERU COULD'VE BEEN SAVED.

I'LL SAVE HIM.

I'LL...

...SAVE KAKERU.

orange
LETTER 3

...SINCE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, EIGHT YEARS AGO.
LAST MONTH...
...THE FIVE OF US MET UP FOR THE FIRST TIME...
IT WAS SUWA'S IDEA FOR ALL OF US TO DIG UP OUR TIME CAPSULE.

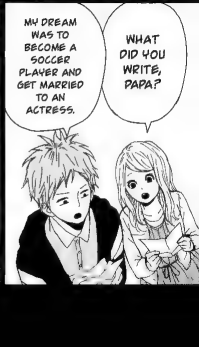
SIX OF US BURIED IT DURING OUR SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.
WOW! THERE IT IS!
OUR TIME CAPSULE!
IT'S STILL THERE!
THANKS.
HERE'S YOURS, TAKAKO.
NEXT, AZU...
KAKERU WAS WITH US THEN.
WE WROTE LETTERS TO OURSELVES, TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE, PUT THEM IN A CAN, AND BURIED IT IN A CORNER OF THE SCHOOLYARD.
RUSTLE
Naho Takamiya-sama,
How are you, my 26-year-old self?
What are you doing these days?
Ideally, I would get married at about 25 to a handsome man, have a child, and work as a nursery school teacher.
How did I do?
(26-YEAR-OLD NAHO TAKAMIYA-SAMA)
(FROM 16-YEAR-OLD NAHO TAKAMIYA)

LET ME SEE!
THAT'S RIGHT, MY DREAM WAS TO BE A NURSERY SCHOOL TEACHER.
BUT THE INSTANT I READ IT, THE MEMORIES CAME FLOODING BACK.
I TOTALLY FORGOT WHAT I'D WRITTEN TEN YEARS AGO.
HEH!

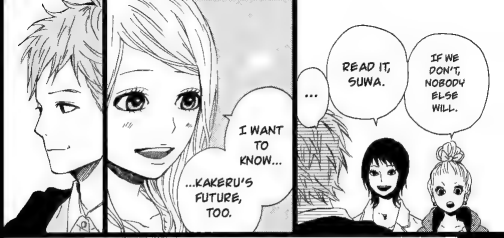
HEY, I'M HANDSOME! NAHO'S LETTER WAS PROPHETIC!
ALTHOUGH THE PART ABOUT A "HANDSOME HUSBAND" WAS OFF...
THE PART ABOUT BEING MARRIED AND HAVING A KID WAS ON THE MONEY!

I WANTED TO "MARRY A RICH GUY AND RIDE THE GRAVY TRAIN!"
HOW ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE?

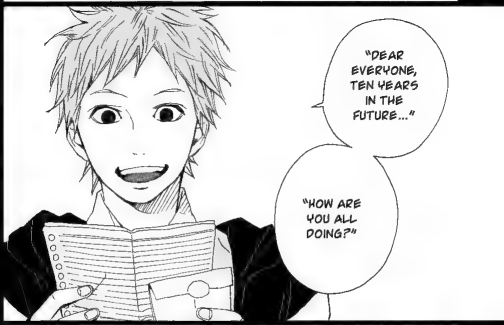
I COULDN'T! IT WOULD'VE BEEN EMBARRASSING IF IT DIDN'T HAPPEN!
YOU SHOULD'VE WRITTEN, "GET MARRIED TO NAHO"!
Although it was my dream...

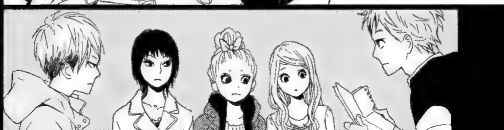

MY DREAM WAS TO BECOME A SOCCER PLAYER AND GET MARRIED TO AN ACTRESS.
WHAT DID YOU WRITE, PAPA?

LETTER: I'LL BECOME A DOCTOR!
I WANTED TO BECOME A DOCTOR.
I WANTED TO BE A SUPER-MODEL.
...
HUH...
SO...
...ANY WISHES COME TRUE?
SIL ... ENCE
KIND OF A POINTLESS TIME CAPSULE...
ANYTHING ELSE IN THERE?
THERE'S ALSO A PICTURE OF ALL OF US...
...AND KAKERU'S LETTER.
(KAKERU NARUSE)
WE ALL AIMED TOO HIGH.
THAT'S ME!
A PHOTO OF A STRANGE GIRL...
...A PHOTO OF MESSI FOR SOME REASON...
I WONDER IF HE'D GET MAD IF WE READ IT...
MAYBE YOU COULD'VE BEEN A DOCTOR IF YOU HADN'T SWITCHED TO CONTACTS.
WHY?


I WANT TO KNOW...
...KAKERU'S FUTURE, TOO.
...
READ IT, SUWA.
IF WE DON'T, NOBODY ELSE WILL.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL READ IT.
Ahem!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
IN A GOOD VOICE.
HE CAN'T.


"DEAR EVERYONE, TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE..."
"HOW ARE YOU ALL DOING?"



NO, IT'S WRITTEN RIGHT HERE!
HEY! YOU'RE JUST MAKING THAT UP!
HUH? YOU'RE RIGHT!
"TO SUWA..."
"SUWA, YOU'RE TALL AND GREAT AT SOCCER.
I IDOLIZE YOU."
"WHEN I STARTED AT THIS NEW SCHOOL, I WAS WORRIED IF I'D FIT IN.
YOU WERE THE FIRST PERSON TO TALK TO ME, AND I WAS THRILLED."
"I WISH I HAD JOINED THE SOCCER CLUB."
...
"TO AZU..."
"YOU'RE ALWAYS CHEERFUL AND FULL OF ENERGY.
EVEN WHEN I FELT DOWN, ONE LOOK AT YOU WOULD MAKE ME THINK MY TROUBLES WERE SILLY, AND I'D CHEER UP."

"TO HAGITA-KUN..."

"FOR SOMEONE WHO LOOKS SO SERIOUS, YOU LOVE COMEDY."

"AND THE CURRY BUNS AT YOUR FAMILY BAKERY WERE DELICIOUS."

"DURING FREE PERIOD, YOU TAUGHT ME THE RULES OF COMEDY, LIKE YOU KEPT SAYING, *DON'T PUSH ME!* EVEN THOUGH YOU WANTED TO BE PUSHED..."

WHAT WERE YOU TEACHING HIM?

HE ALWAYS ASKED ME TO.

"I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT..."

HE DIDN'T UNDER-STAND IT?

"...BUT I ALWAYS HAD A GOOD TIME BECAUSE YOU MADE ME LAUGH."

"TO TAKAKO..."

"YOU HAVE A MANLY PERSONALITY AND CAN BE SCARY WHEN YOU GET MAD...

...BUT IT IS ALWAYS ON BEHALF OF NAHO OR AZU.

ONE TIME WHEN YOU GOT SERIOUSLY ANGRY WHILE PROTECTING NAHO, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SO COOL."

"TO NAHO..."

"YOU'RE MODEST AND CHERISH EVERYONE MORE THAN YOU DO YOURSELF.

WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS HAPPY, YOU SEEM HAPPY."

"WHEN YOU, AZU, AND TAKAKO MADE COOKIES IN COOKING CLASS...

...YOURS TASTED THE BEST, NAHO."

"I WISH I'D HAD A CHANCE TO TRY YOUR HOME COOKING."

"I HOPE EVEN TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE...
...YOU ALL STAY GOOD FRIENDS WHO LAUGH TOGETHER."
"KAKERU NARUSE."
...
WHAT ABOUT KAKERU?
THERE'S NOTHING ABOUT HIMSELF
ANYTHING ELSE...?
THAT'S ALL.

WHY...?
WHAT ABOUT KAKERU'S FUTURE?
I'M TELLING YOU!
IT CAN'T BE!
THIS IS ALL THERE IS!
WE SAID TO WRITE ABOUT OUR OWN FUTURE!
TO WRITE A LETTER TO OUR FUTURE SELVES!
WHY? WHY DIDN'T HE WRITE THAT?
GO ASK KAKERU!!
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?!

...
WHY...?
WHY, KAKERU?
WAAAHHH...!
IN THE WINTER OF OUR SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, KAKERU DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.
WE ALL CRIED AND SCREAMED "WHY?" ON THAT DAY, TOO.
DID KAKERU KNOW HE HAD NO FUTURE?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?
...UNLESS HE DECIDED IT HIMSELF?
NO. IT'S NOT POSSIBLE THAT HE KNEW THE FUTURE...
IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT...?
TELL US, KAKERU!

WE COULD HAVE SAVED HIM.

IF WE HADN'T LEFT HIM ALONE...

IF WE HAD KEPT A CLOSER EYE ON KAKERU...

...MAYBE KAKERU WOULDN'T HAVE GONE TO HEAVEN OF HIS OWN WILL.

LET'S GO AND CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY...
...WE DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO BACK THEN.
LET'S MAKE THE FUTURE...
...HE WANTED FOR US TO COME TRUE.
IF I COULD RELIVE THE PAST...
...I WOULD RUN TO KAKERU WITHOUT HESITATION.
WE'LL LAUGH AND BE CLOSE FRIENDS AGAIN.

I SWEAR I'LL SAVE HIM NEXT TIME.

『5月1日』

MAY 1ST
KAKERU'S ONE WEEK AS A PROVISIONAL SOCCER CLUB MEMBER IS OVER.
HE QUITS THE CLUB.

I WANT YOU TO MAKE KAKERU JOIN THE CLUB, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO FORCE HIM. SEE, I THINK HE ACTUALLY DOES WANT TO BE PART OF THE SOCCER CLUB.

PLEASE LISTEN NOW!
SAVE IT FOR LATER.
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE!
"MAKE KAKERU JOIN THE CLUB"!
All right!
I'll DEFINITELY CHANGE THE FUTURE!!

...HAS BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE SOCCER CLUB!
AS OF TODAY, KAKERU HERE...

FOR REAL? NOT A PROVISIONAL MEMBER?
HUH?
THE PLAN WAS TO QUIT AFTER ONE WEEK...

HUH?

I KNOW! I KNOW! I'M NOT POPULAR!

I HATE PUSHY MEN, DON'T YOU?

THAT FIGURES...

...BUT SUWA WOULDN'T GET OFF MY CASE ABOUT JOINING.

MAYBE...

...THE FUTURE IS CHANGING?

STARTING TOMORROW, I HAVE MORNING PRACTICE...

...SO PLEASE GIVE ME A WAKE-UP CALL!

SURE!

EVERYTHING IN THE LETTER IS REALLY TAKING PLACE...

...SO IT'S NOT LIKE IT "GUESSED WRONG"...

NAHO...

IT MUST BE THE DIFFERENT ACTIONS I'M TAKING...

...COMPARED TO MY FUTURE SELF LIKE MAKING HIM LUNCH.

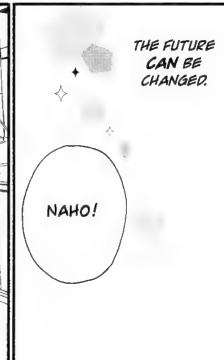
DOES THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE LETTER MEAN THAT KAKERU HASN'T BEEN SAVED YET?
BUT THEN WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LETTER?
WAIT...
HUH? WHAT AM I THINKING? MY MIND IS A JUMBLE.

THEN MAYBE...
...KAKERU EXISTS TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

THE FUTURE HAS CHANGED FOR THE BETTER.

THE FUTURE HAS CHANGED.
BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE.
I'LL TRY TO PIECE IT TOGETHER LATER.

THUMP
LOST IN THOUGHT?


THE FUTURE CAN BE CHANGED.
NAHO!

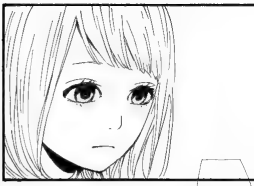
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, OR YOU'LL BUMP INTO SOMETHING.
YEAH...
AH!
MORNING!

ペコ BOW
NAHO, DO YOU KNOW HER?
HUH?
THAT'S UBDA-SEMPAI, A SENIOR.
EVERYONE KNOWS HER BECAUSE OF HOW PRETTY SHE IS.
YOU DON'T SAY...
IT SEEMS LIKE...
...SHE'S INTERESTED IN KAKERU.
SHE'S ALWAYS WATCHING THE SOCCER CLUB PRACTICE.
HUH...

MAY 2ND

THE DAY BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS START IS A HALF-DAY AT SCHOOL.
UEDA-SEMPAI CONFESSES HER FEELINGS TO KAKERU DURING FREE PERIOD.

HE STARTS TO DATE UEDA-SEMPAI.



THE FUTURE CAN BE CHANGED.

IT'S GOT TO BE AN EASY THING TO DO.

NAH.
ARE THESE HEAVY?
THANKS FOR WAKING ME UP THIS MORNING.

N-NO!
WHAT ARE YOU, THE GOFER?

IS THERE A GUY THAT YOU LIKE?
ALL THE SAME... I WORRY ABOUT KAKERU.
OH, YEAH.
NAHO...

IS KAKERU...
...GOING TO GO OUT WITH UEDA-SEMPAI?
BUT IF KAKERU CHOOSES THAT PATH HIMSELF...
...IT CAN'T BE TOO BAD...

HUH?!
N...
NO!
WELL?

IS THERE SOMEONE THAT YOU LIKE?
HOW ABOUT YOU, KAKERU?

THAT TOOK ME BY SUR-PRISE...
BUT I CAN'T COME RIGHT OUT AND SAY "YES."
AH! NO! NO! I DIDN'T MEAN...
HUH...

...
WHAT ABOUT UEDA-SEMPAI?
MM...
NO.
I LIKE HER FACE.
I WANNA GET COSMETIC SURGERY.
SUWA, BUY ME A SOFT DRINK.
HE LIKES HER FACE...
HER FACE...
...

ME TOO.
ME TOO.
I WANT ONE, TOO!
I'M NOT THAT TALL!
YOU'RE, LIKE, TWO PACES AWAY FROM THE VENDING MACHINE.
BUY IT YOURSELF.

WE'LL DO ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS FOR IT!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, NAHO?
UM...
AH...
Acerola, cola, tangerine jelly, coffee-flavored milk...
OKAY, KAKERU-KUN, GET GOING.
CRAP!
WAIT, I CAN'T REMEMBER ALL THIS.
I'LL HAVE A COLA.
in a plastic bottle...
I'LL TAKE ACEROLA.
in a juice pack...
ROCK PAPER SCISSORS!!!

I'M FINE.
...
!
REALLY?
YOU'RE NOT THIRSTY AFTER P.E.?

STARE...

...
OKAY. SO WHAT DO YOU WANT, NAHO?

ANYTHING IS FINE.
ANY-THING?
EVEN CANNED COFFEE? OR SWEET RED BEAN SOUP?
HUH?
Are you being sarcastic?

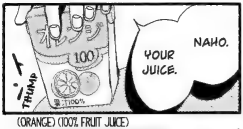
SO NOT EVERYTHING IS FINE.
ORANGE JUICE...
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
THANKS!
GOT IT.
"ENDURE TOO MUCH...
...AND IT'LL BE YOUR LOSS."
MY FEELING OF LOVE...
...HAS JUST GROWN.
OH, THERE HE IS!
YOU OKAY? WE'RE WAITING ON YOU!

SORRY. I DROPPED THE COLA.
HEY!
Heart
THAT'S ...
...KIND OF CUTE.
ふふ + GIGGLE
AH...
KAKERU GOT CAPTURED.
IS THAT...
HUH?
DO YOU THINK SHE'S ASKING HIM OUT?
SHE'S HIDDEN BY THE BRANCHES.
...UEDA-SEMPAI?
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.

HEY, WHAT WAS THAT OUT THERE?
SHE ASK YOU OUT?
AH... YEAH...
SHE DID?!

SO?! WHAT WAS YOUR ANSWER?
I SAID I'D GIVE HER AN ANSWER AFTER THE HOLIDAY.

A CON-FESSION OF LOVE...
WELCOME BACK!
FINALLY!
SORRY.

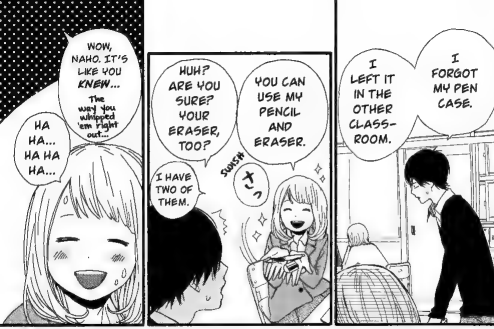

THUNK
100%
NAHO.
YOUR JUICE.

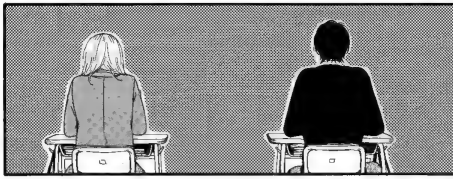
(ORANGE) (100% FRUIT JUICE)
THEY ONLY HAD THE LITTLE ORANGE JUICE CONTAINER. IS THAT OKAY?
AH... SURE.
I ALWAYS GET THIS.
THAT'S OKAY.
HERE'S THE MONEY...

AZU, THE MONEY...
KAKERU THE STUD!
Squee!
What'd she say exactly, huh?
AH! SORRY!

BEFORE FOURTH PERIOD, I LEND KAKERU A PENCIL AND ERASER WHEN HE SAYS HE FORGOT HIS PEN CASE.

AFTER CLASS, WHEN KAKERU RETURNS THE PENCIL AND ERASER, I WANT YOU TO TAKE THE COVER OFF THE ERASER AND LOOK AT IT.





HONEST-LY...

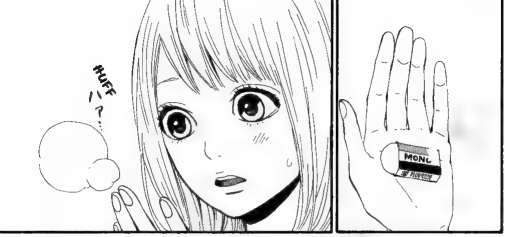
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

...ISN'T FAIR OF ME TO HAVE.

BUT MAYBE THIS FEELING ...

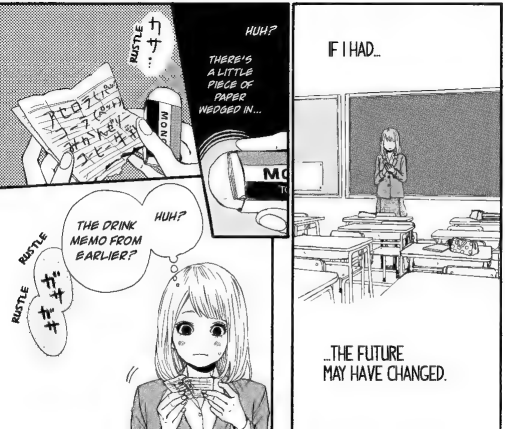
...I DON'T WANT KAKERU TO GO OUT WITH UEDA-SEMPAI.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
DING DONG
DING DONG
THANK YOU.
...
ROLL
KAKERU, LET'S GET SOMETHIN' TO EAT.
Then we gotta get to the club.
AH! I'VE GOT CLEANING DUTY.
STAY WHAT?
NAHO...
WE'VE GOT CLEANING DUTY, TOO.
HUH? IS THAT RIGHT?
ガチャ
RATTLE
...
WHERE?
I DO THE ENTRANCE AND YOU DO THE HALLWAY.
MY ERASER!
CLEAN-ING'S DONE!
QUICK!
GOTTA GET TO MY ERASER!



THE ERASER I GOT BACK FROM KAKERU.

I DIDN'T NOTICE THE MESSAGE ON IT THAT DAY.



RUSTLE
Do you think it's okay if I go out with Ueda-sempai?
MOVE
WHAT DO I DO?
HOW SHOULD I ANSWER HIM?
KAKERU IS STILL IN THE BUILDING...
RIP

ガタッ
RATTLE
ハ？…
HUFF HUFF
ハ？…
ガチャ
RATTLE
成瀬
(NARUSE)
成瀬
パタン
SLAM

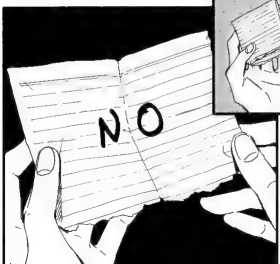
...AND SAID SHE WANTED AN ANSWER RIGHT AWAY.
...CAN BE CHANGED.
AH! NAHO, WHERE WERE YOU?
COME HERE!
IT'S OKAY.
THE FUTURE...
UEDA-SEMPAI CORNERED HIM AGAIN...
KAKERU!
WHAT...?

KAKERU!
WHAT'D YOU SAY? DID YOU TELL HER...
AH! SHE'S SMILING!
CONGRATS, KAKERU!
SQUEEEE
HMPH!
YEAH, YEAH! YOU'VE GOT A DATE, RIGHT?
SORRY! I CAN'T HANG OUT DURING THE HOLIDAYS!
DASH!

NAHO!
I HAVE TO GET HOME!
NAHO?
SORRY! I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO!
YOU OKAY...?
I'M FINE...
SORRY...

YOU'RE...
...IN LOVE WITH KAKERU, AREN'T YOU?

I'M SORRY.


NO

I'M SORRY...
...FUTURE ME.
THERE'S ONE REGRET I COULDN'T ERASE.

WEDNES-DAY, MAY 2ND

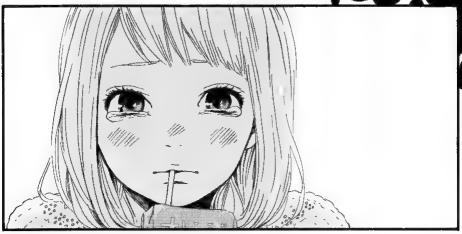
THE DAY BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS STARTED WAS A HALF-DAY AT SCHOOL.

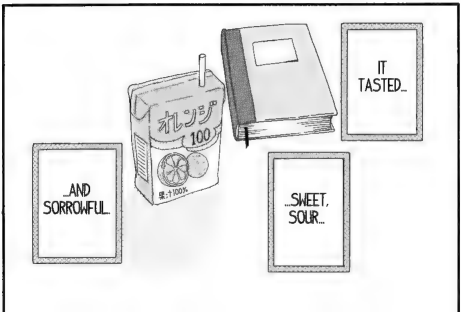
...AND SO NOW THEY'RE DATING.

DURING FREE PERIOD, UEDA-SEMPAI ASKED KAKERU OUT...

IN MY ROOM, I DRANK THE ORANGE JUICE THAT KAKERU GOT FOR ME.

FOR SOME REASON, I WAS OVERWHELMED WITH EMOTION AND COULDN'T EAT.





DRINK: COFFEE-FLAVORED MILK

orange
LETTER 4

THIS IS OUR SECOND VISIT AS A GROUP.

...HE MOVED FROM THE CITY OF MATSUMOTO TO HIS GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.

AFTER KAKERU'S MOTHER PASSED AWAY...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

PLEASE, TAKE YOUR TIME...

...TALKING TO KAKERU TODAY.

MY... HOW ADORABLE. YOURS?

UH, YES.

HE'S...

WE'RE MARRIED.

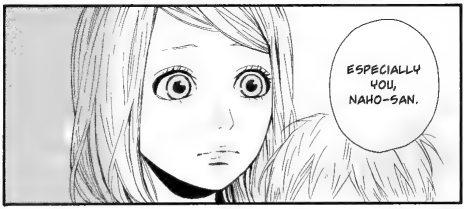
THE LAST TIME WE WERE HERE...

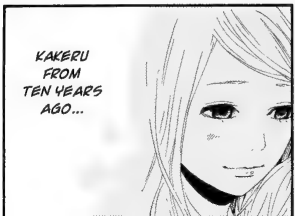
...WAS FOR KAKERU'S FUNERAL.

KAKERU ALWAYS USED TO...
...TALK ABOUT YOU TWO.

SUWA-KUN AND NAHO-SAN.

YES.
YOU REMEMBER US?
YOUR WARM EXPRESSIONS HAVEN'T CHANGED.


ESPECIALLY YOU, NAHO-SAN.


KAKERU FROM TEN YEARS AGO...

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU SO MUCH MORE.

...I COULDN'T SAVE YOU, KAKERU.

I'M SORRY...

TO ASK YOU THINGS...

TO TELL YOU THINGS...

...TO LET YOU TALK TO ME.

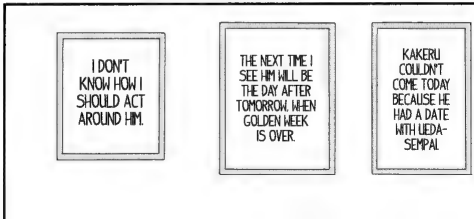
...NOT HAVING THE COURAGE...

I REALLY REGRET...

...WHAT YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT THAT DAY.

I WONDER...

NOTE: CALPIS IS A MILK-BASED SOFT DRINK.

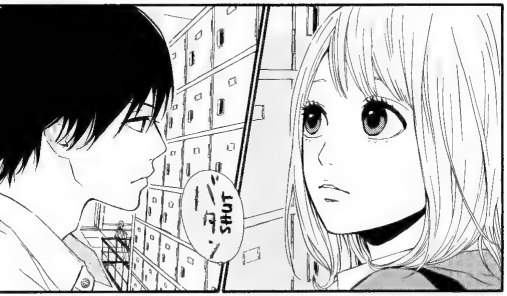


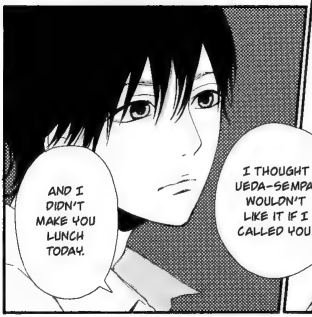
GOOD MORNING.

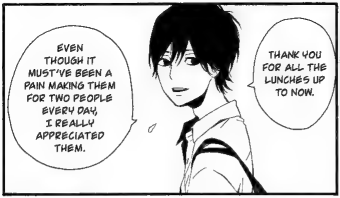
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT NOTE.

...I WROTE HIM A NOTE SAYING, "NO."

WHEN HE ASKED, "DO YOU THINK IT'S OKAY IF I GO OUT WITH UEDA-SEMPAI?"




AND I DIDN'T MAKE YOU LUNCH TODAY.
I THOUGHT UEDA-SEMPAI WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF I CALLED YOU.
YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND NOW.
NO...


EVEN THOUGH IT MUST'VE BEEN A PAIN MAKING THEM FOR TWO PEOPLE EVERY DAY, I REALLY APPRECIATED THEM.
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE LUNCHES UP TO NOW.

UEDA-SEMPAI WOULDN'T LIKE THAT, EITHER...
I SEE.

IT WASN'T A PAIN.

SORRY FOR BEING PUSHY ABOUT IT.
UH...

EVERY DAY...
...WAS FUN.
BRINGING LUNCH WOULD GUARANTEE THAT WE'D TALK TO EACH OTHER.
KAKERU WOULD ALWAYS SMILE WHEN I TOLD HIM I MADE LUNCH.
THAT MADE ME...
...SO HAPPY.
IT WASN'T A PAIN AT ALL.
I HAVE TO TELL HIM THAT.
KAKERU!

WHAT?
KAKERU!
MORNING!

...NAHO?
WHAT IS IT...
...
NEVER MIND...
...
LET'S GO, KAKERU.
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NOTHING MUCH...
I'D BETTER STOP TALKING TO KAKERU.
I DON'T THINK UEDA-SEMPAI LIKES IT...
IS THAT GIRL IN YOUR CLASS?
...YEAH.

GIGGLE フフフ
SHE'S KIND OF A COUNTRY BUMPKIN, ISN'T SHE?
...
HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO LIVING HERE?
YEAH, IT'S FUN.
REALLY?
I MOVED FROM TOKYO QUITE AWHILE AGO...
...BUT I'M STILL NOT USED TO IT.
THERE'S NOT MUCH TO TALK ABOUT HERE, EVEN WITH MY FRIENDS.
WHEN I WAS IN TOKYO...
...I COULD GET ANYTHING I WANTED...
...BUT HERE THERE'S NOTHING TO GET.
YOU CAN'T GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT A CAR. TOTALLY INCONVE-NIENT.
On top of that, it's friggin' cold!
Find you can see mountains wherever you go...
RIGHT?

WHERE'S KAKERU?
YEAH...
SHE GRABS HIM EVERY FREE PERIOD
ANYWAY, UEDA-SEMPAI WAS...?
Or talk while you're reading!
DON'T EAT IN THE MIDDLE OF A SENTENCE!
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
UEDA-SEMPAI WAS LEADING HIM SOMEGROWF...
I WONDER WHOSE SIDE HE'S ON, HER'S OR OURS.
...
ME, EITHER.
HONESTLY, I DON'T LIKE UEDA-SEMPAI.
You shouldn't track down your than like he's prey.
...

WHY DIDN'T I...

...LOOK AT MY ERASER SOONER?

WHY DIDN'T I...

...JUST TELL HIM "NO" FACE TO FACE?

WHY?

...

WELL, KAKERU'S ONLY BEEN IN MATSUMOTO FOR A MONTH AND A HALF, RIGHT?

AND I GUESS UEDA-SEMPAI IS FROM TOKYO, TOO.

MAYBE KAKERU IS HAPPY TO HAVE ANOTHER PERSON WHO'S ON UNFAMILIAR GROUND.

PLUS SHE'S HOT!

SHUT UP, HAGITA.

WHY DID KAKERU AGREE TO GO OUT WITH HER? WHAT AN IDIOT.

WE SHOULD'VE STOPPED HIM. IT'S OUR FAULT.

WHAT THE HECK? YOU WERE HAPPY FOR HIM BEFORE!

...

?

WHEN I THINK OF KAKERU WITH UEDA-SEMPAI...

...MY CHEST TIGHTENS UP.

...I HAVE TO MAKE CHOICES.
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW THE FUTURE...
MAYBE IT'S HARD TO LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT SOME REGRETS.
They're so cute that I've got them decorating my room at home!
ARE YOU WEARING...
NO...
HUH?
NAHO...
...THOSE SHORTS?
?
ARE YOU HIDING SOMETHING FROM US?
WHAT?

MAY 17TH

AFTER KAKERU STARTS GOING OUT WITH UEDA-SEMPAI,
I STOP TALKING TO HIM.

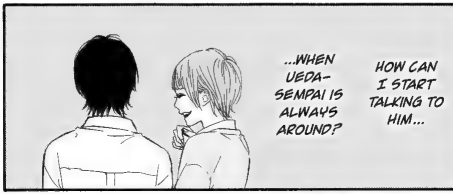
THIS IS THE FIRST DAY.
DURING LUNCH, HE CALLS OUT TO ME, BUT I AVOID HIM
WHEN I SEE UEDA-SEMPAI.

AFTER THIS, I WILL AVOID HIM A NUMBER OF TIMES.

WHEN KAKERU CALLS OUT TO YOU, PLEASE ANSWER HIM.

AND DON'T JUST WAIT AROUND. I WANT YOU TO START
TALKING TO HIM, TOO.

I'M SURE THERE'S A LOT YOU WANT TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT.


...WHEN UEDA-SEMPAI IS ALWAYS AROUND?
HOW CAN I START TALKING TO HIM...

IT HAS TO BE WHEN HE'S ALONE.

KAKERU ...
...IS ALONE?

WHEN KAKERU CALLS OUT TO YOU...
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
!
NAHO!

!
...PLEASE ANSWER HIM.
Ack!
You've already eating! You suck!
Sorry I'm late!
KAKERU...

"I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT BACK THEN..."

I CAN'T...

I CAN'T!

...WHEN YOU'RE IN THE FUTURE.

IT'S EASY TO SAY THAT...

BUT WHEN YOU'RE LIVING IT IN THE MOMENT, DOING YOUR BEST...

IT'S EASY TO LOOK BACK ON WHAT HAPPENED FROM THAT DISTANCE.

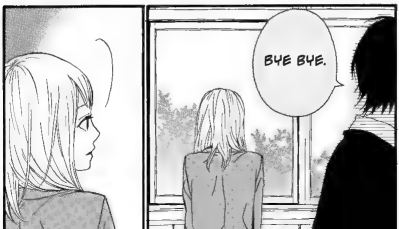
IF...

...I CALL OUT TO KAKERU AND HE DOESN'T TURN AROUND...

MAY 21ST
AFTER SCHOOL, KAKERU AND UEDA-SEMPAI GET IN A FIGHT AFTER HE SAYS "BYE BYE" TO ME.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WHEN I SEE THE LOOK IN HER EYES, SO I JUST GO HOME.

LATER ON, I WOULD FIND OUT THAT KAKERU WAS DEEPLY TROUBLED AT THE TIME.



IF I HAD ONLY NOTICED... IF I HAD ONLY TRIED TALKING TO HIM ABOUT IT...
K...
KAKERU...
BUT I WAS SO WRAPPED UP IN MYSELF.
WAIT!
KAKERU!

BUMP
WHUMP
WOW.
SOME FALL.

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? MY BAG JUST HIT HER!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
SHE...
...PUSHED ME.
THEN APOLOGIZE!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT!
YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING TO HER!

I DON'T WANT YOU TALKING TO ANY OTHER GIRL!
ARE YOU OKAY?
DON'T.
DON'T FIGHT.
KAKERU, YOU IDIOT!
IT'S MY FAULT.
IT'S BECAUSE I CALLED OUT TO KAKERU.

ARE YOU HURT?
SWISH

I...
I'M FINE.
I'M SORRY...

I'M SORRY, KAKERU.

I CAN'T DO IT, AFTER ALL.
...THEN I SHOULDN'T TALK TO HIM AT ALL.
...AND IF THAT CAUSES PROBLEMS FOR KAKERU...
IF IT'S MY FAULT THAT UEDA-SEMPAI IS IN A BAD TEMPER...

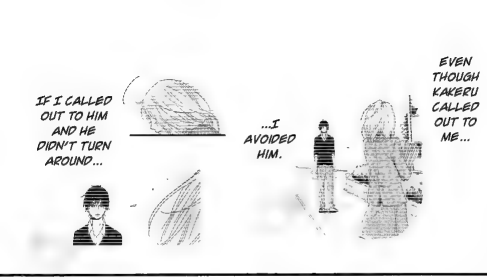
WRUMP
...!

DON'T RUN AWAY, NAHO.

...THOSE TWO HAD A FIGHT BECAUSE I CALLED OUT TO HIM.
IT'S MY FAULT. I SHOULDN'T TALK TO HIM LIKE I USED TO...
HUH?
THE LETTER DIDN'T MENTION THIS.
...
BUT...
THE FUTURE IS CHANGING.
I THINK IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO TALK TO HIM.
I MEAN, WE'RE ALL FRIENDS.
...EVEN THOUGH...
...THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY TO HIM.

BESIDES, HE'S GOT ME IN A BIND.
AT THE CLUB, HE DOESN'T FOCUS AT ALL.
THE GUY'S DEPRESSED...
...BECAUSE HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU BUT CAN'T FIND THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY.
HE DOES...?

HOW CAN KAKERU TALK TO YOU...
...IF YOU RUN AWAY?
DID I LOOK...
...CLOSELY AT KAKERU?
I'M ALWAYS...
...SO WORRIED ABOUT UEDA-SEMPAI.


IF I CALLED OUT TO HIM AND HE DIDN'T TURN AROUND...
...I AVOIDED HIM.
EVEN THOUGH KAKERU CALLED OUT TO ME...

THANK YOU, SUWA!
I HAVE TO LET HIM KNOW.
I'LL GO SEE HIM.
YEAH! GO DO IT!
I'LL HAVE A GOOD LONG TALK WITH HIM!
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT THAT...
...AND YET, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I DID TO HIM.

KNOWING NAHO, THERE'S NO WAY SHE'LL TELL US WHAT IT IS.

...IS HIDING SOMETHING FROM US.

NAHO...

Definitely.

FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER THANKED ME.

THANK YOU, SUWA.

BUT I'M RELIEVED...

...THAT KAKERU STOOD UP FOR HER.

I'M SURE THE ME OF TEN YEARS FROM NOW...

...HAS BEEN FEELING REGRET A LOT LONGER THAN I HAVE.

WELL, I'M PISSED...

...AT THAT STUCK-UP SENIOR.

HAHAHA

...I'D'VE CLOCKED THAT GIRL ON THE JAW.

IF SUWA HADN'T STOPPED ME...

THE FUTURE ME WISHES SHE COULD TALK TO KAKERU MUCH MORE THAN I DO.
KAKERU ISN'T IN THE FUTURE...
...BUT HE IS RIGHT HERE.
EVEN IF IT DOESN'T GO WELL...
...I CAN KEEP TRYING.
KAKERU!

KAKERU!
UM...

YOU SAID YOU WERE PUSHY ABOUT IT...
MAKING LUNCH FOR YOU...
...BUT I NEVER FELT THAT WAY!
...ISN'T A PAIN AT ALL!
FOR ME, IT WAS A GREAT TIME!

I'M SORRY FOR NOT ANSWERING YOU...
...WHEN YOU CALLED OUT TO ME THE OTHER DAY!
WHAT WAS IT?
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SAY?!

WELL...
THERE IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, ISN'T THERE?
I CAN HEAR HIM.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
AND HE CAN HEAR ME.
KAKERU...
...IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
YOU'RE TOO LATE, NAHO.
I FORGOT WHAT I WANTED TO SAY THEN.

I'VE BEEN...

...THINKING ABOUT BREAKING UP WITH UEDA-SEMPAI.

I WANT TO TREASURE...

...EVERY SECOND...

...EVERY MOMENT...

BUT...

...I THINK SHE'S JUST NOT RIGHT FOR ME.

UM...

ABOUT TWO WEEKS?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN GOING OUT WITH HER?

HUH?

TH-THAT'S FAST, KAKERU...

YEAH.

I'VE FELT THAT WAY WHENEVER WE TALKED...
...SINCE THE FIRST DAY WE WENT OUT.
THAT'S FAST...
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE MADE A CHOICE BASED ON LOOKS.
YOU SAID YES... BECAUSE OF HER LOOKS?
YEAH.
I WAS A MORON.
HUH?
BUT SHE MAY ACTUALLY BE A GOOD PERSON.
YEAH, BUT I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND.
HAHAHA
IT IS BECAUSE...
...OF THAT FIGHT?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
YOU TOLD ME "NO."
REMEMBER?

I'VE...
...HATED NOT BEING ABLE...
...TO TALK TO YOU ANY-MORE.
NOW I'M EMBAR-RASSED.
...GET MY NOTE.
SO HE DID...

THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE I'M MORE INTERESTED IN THAN UEDA-SEMPAI.
BESIDES...

...SOMEONE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH?
SOMEBODY YOU'RE INTERESTED IN...?
YEAH.
I FIGURED IT OUT AFTER STARTING TO DATE UEDA-SEMPAI.
IS THIS...

...THE PERSON KAKERU IS INTERESTED IN.

I WONDER IF MY FUTURE SELF KNOWS...

TO BE CONTINUED...